

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-14

Page 1 of 2

Name of Property: Armory Place (Silver Spring Armory)

Location: 925 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, Montgomery County

The demolition and/or move of a building to/from a property is considered part of a property's history and should therefore be documented when such activity occurs. This form documents that the above-noted building has been demolished.

This building was demolished in 1998. A multi-story parking garage now stands in its place. Several architectural elements remain on-site along the northwest side of Wayne Avenue that help commemorate the spirit of the former building. These items include:

- a cast concrete, decorative panel with medieval ornamentation (freestanding),
- a cast concrete panel (formerly surmounted above the main entrance) that reads, "Maryland National Guard,"
- a cast concrete date stone that reads, "Armory, M.N.G., 1927" and,
- custom ceramic tiles

The placement of the above noted items was created by Jerome B. Meadows, Meadlark Studios, 2004, and was commissioned by Montgomery County.

The Silver Spring Armory appears to have first been documented in 1984, shortly after the building underwent renovations (Walston). Ten years later the building was thoroughly documented and evaluated and recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B (Bushong 1994). To-date, no Determination of Eligibility has been located in response to that recommendation. Based on correspondence from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the building also appears to have been listed on Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation and was a locally protected historic site.

**Addendum to
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-14

Page 2 of 2

Name of Property: Armory Place (Silver Spring Armory)

Location: 925 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, Montgomery County

References Cited:

Bushong, William

1994 Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form: Silver Spring Armory. Prepared August 31. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland.

Walston, Mark

1984 Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey: The New Armory. Prepared August 1984. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. M36-14

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Silver Spring Armory

and/or common Armory Place

2. Location

street & number 925 Wayne Avenue not for publication

city, town Silver Spring vicinity of congressional district 8

state MD county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 4536

street & number 51 Monroe Street folio 412

city, town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M. 36-14

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Silver Spring Armory, built in 1927, is a renovated Gothic Revival style brick building located in the heart of Silver Spring's central business district. The original core of the brick building has a T-plan with a two-story castellated "head house" and a one-story barrel vaulted perpendicular gymnasium or "drill hall." The building has a full basement and is sited on a triangular lot bounded by Pershing Drive, Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street. The main facade is oriented southwest toward a major intersection created by the convergence of Pershing Drive, Wayne and Georgia Avenues. A brick entry plaza with universal access ramps and a substantial rear Modern style brick addition were completed in 1980.

The Armory's "head house," oriented to the southwest, has an imposing two-story brick facade with a central block and wings. The central three bay block has been created by projecting twin crenellated towers with corner buttresses flanking a recessed entrance bay. On the ground level this central block features the main segmental arched entry surmounted by a stone panel reading MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD. At the parapet level is a central square stone bas relief of the seal of the State of Maryland. The subsidiary wings are two bays in width and have corner buttresses and matching crenellated parapets.

All three parts of the main facade read as a single mass and are unified by symmetrical ranks of casement windows (infilled with fixed tinted panes in 1980), a continuous crenellated parapet, and uniform limestone trim on the corner buttresses, the window sills, a dentil band, and a water table string course. To enhance its symbolic association with a medieval fortress, the towers have a narrow elongated window and central lozenge-shaped limestone panels resembling shields at the level of the buttress caps. Limestone stringcourses cross the towers at the level of the crenellated parapet of the subsidiary wings. The towers also have crenellated parapets with decorative centered square limestone panels and are finished with limestone caps.

The long sides of the building's facade on the northwest and southeast include the side elevations of the "head house" block and

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No.

M 36-14

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary:

The Silver Spring Armory, completed in 1927, is historically significant for its associations with the formation of the nation's modern military reserve created by the reorganization and expansion of the National Guard system during the early decades of the twentieth century. The Armory also derives local significance for its commemorative and symbolic association with the military service of the Montgomery County men who contributed to the history of the Maryland National Guard's 29th Division as Company K, 1st Maryland Infantry during World War I and as Service Company, 115th Infantry during World War II. The building also has strong historical associations with the careers of the founding fathers of modern day Silver Spring Frank L. Hewitt and E. Brooke Lee and generally played a key role in the twentieth century economic and social development of Silver Spring.

Military History

Prior to the enactment of the 1904 National Militia Act, commonly called the "Dick Act" after its sponsor Ohio Congressman Charles Dick, the National Guard was considered a constabulary force, a defense against foreign invasion or a pool from which skilled volunteers might be drawn for the Regular Army. The Dick Act mandated that the National Guard units would become interchangeable with the Regular Army and required the Guard "to maintain authorized manpower strengths, adhere to the Articles of War, train two days per month, and undertake a summer encampment of at least five days in duration."¹

(Continued)

Survey No. *M 36-14*

10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle name _____

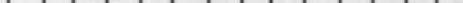
Quadrangle scale _____

A

Zone Easting Northing

B


Zone Easting Northing

c 

D 

E

F

G 

H | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	William Bushong
------------	-----------------

organization	M-NCPPC	date	August 31, 1994
--------------	---------	------	-----------------

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone (301) 495-4570

city or town	Silver Spring	state	MD 20910
--------------	---------------	-------	----------

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 7: DESCRIPTION
Page 7.1

the Armory's gymnasium. The "head house" side elevations mirror the overall design details of the principal facade repeating the continuous crenellated parapet and limestone trimmed corner buttresses, window sills, dentil band, and water table string course. There were symmetrical casement windows and smaller paired windows on the north half of the side elevations of the main block. New windows with 1/1 tinted lights replace the original sash and a first floor window of the southeast elevation has a brick infill. The side walls of the gymnasium space are less ornate and are lighted by six pairs of elongated casement windows (infilled with fixed tinted glass panes) divided into bays by strip buttresses with limestone shoulder caps. Each bay of the raised basement has a horizontal window surmounted by a molded brick string course. The gymnasium walls are laid in common bond and have a decorative corbeled brick cornice. The roof has a low barrel vault covered by composition shingles.

To the northeast is a large two story addition with a utilitarian modern design erected in 1980. This brick extension, which houses an elevator, stairs and restroom facilities, dramatically modernizes the northeast elevation. It matches the color and texture of the older building, but its abstract sculptural character clearly reflects that it is a modern addition. On the south east facade the building has an entrance in a deep set back beneath a cantilevered second story lobby space light by a strip of large tinted glass panes. The plain brick wall surface curves into a large rounded corner and on the north east facade flattens into an expansive brick frame for five massive, two story tinted window panes. The northwest facade of the new addition facing Pershing Drive has the outline of a simple brick box and incorporates a service entrance.

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.1

Additionally, the Dick Act created federal responsibility for supplying and paying the militia and established the National Guard as a branch of the national armed forces with inspections by Regular Army officers. The legislation also improved National Guard weaponry, required regular drill and instituted periodic joint maneuvers with the Army. The modern National Guard still functions under many of this reform legislation's provisions today. Further improvements came after the enactment of the 1916 National Defense Act, which increased troop strength and funding of the National Guard and mandated federal standards for officers and instructors. This law also clarified the Guard's role as a national military reserve in the event of overseas service by permitting the President to draft all Guardsmen into federal military service for the duration of a conflict.²

The Maryland National Guard traces its origins to the American Revolution when militia men, known as the "Maryland 400," participated in the Battle of Long Island in 1776. Charging a vastly superior British force with bayonets, the Marylanders helped save the Continental Army from an early defeat in the New York campaign. The formation of militia was a long held tradition in the American Colonies that had followed English precedents of a citizen armed force first established by King Henry II (1154-89) and his Assize of Arms. The Congress of the newly formed United States established a mandate for a national militia in 1792 when it enacted the Militia Act requiring every free, white male between the age of 17 and 45 to be a citizen-soldier. Maryland militia men defended Baltimore during the War of 1812 and fought for the Union and Confederate causes during the Civil War. However, most of Maryland's militia units disbanded as state funding and support was sharply cutback in the 1870s. It was not until the late nineteenth century that militia units gained significant public support when violent confrontations between labor and management erupted during the nationwide railroad strike of 1877. General social unrest surrounding urbanization and immigration in this period, particularly in the northeastern cities, also created a

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.2

perceived need for a strong militia.³

The first armory built for the National Guard in Silver Spring was erected in 1914 after E. Brooke Lee and Frank L. Hewitt organized Company K of the 1st Maryland Infantry. It was a military Gothic Revival style building built facing Silver Spring's Main Street, the Brookeville and Washington Turnpike (now Georgia Avenue). After completion of the present Armory building in 1927, the old "Company K" building, which is extant at the corner of Georgia and Silver Spring Avenues, was extensively remodeled in the Colonial Revival style and converted for use as a fire station.

Lee had joined F Company, First Maryland Infantry at Hyattsville in 1912 and risen through the ranks to become a first lieutenant. Lee would command Montgomery County's newly organized Company K of the Maryland National Guard headquartered in Silver Spring.⁴ Hewitt, a major land developer and a prominent member and early president of the Silver Spring Businessmen's Association (forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce), was second lieutenant and the company's first officer.⁵

Company K was stationed at Eagle Pass, Texas during the summer months of 1916 running border patrols along the Rio Grande River after Mexican Revolutionary Francisco "Pancho" Villa's famous raid into New Mexico. With the United States entry into World War I, Company K was again mustered into federal service at Silver Spring in June 1917 and encamped at U. S. Senator Blair Lee's field west of Georgia Avenue and north of Kalmia Road in the District of Columbia. The National Guard unit comprising 150 men was sent to Camp McClellan, near Anniston, Alabama in August 1917 for ten months of training and emerged as Company K of the 115th Infantry, 29th Division of the American Expeditionary Force.⁶

The 29th Division was made up of National Guard Units from Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, New Jersey and Virginia and was called the Blue and Gray division because the unit's forebears had fought in both the Union and Confederate Armies during the Civil

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.3

War. On their arrival at the front, the 29th Division served on the border of Germany and Switzerland with the mission of controlling the Belfort Gap. On September 22, 1918 they were ordered north to support the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and to capture a rail network vital to the German war effort. Beginning on October 8, the Blue and Gray Division began a steady advance on the German trenches along the east bank of the Meuse. Twenty one days later the division had contributed to a four and a half mile Allied advance and had captured the Consenvoye Heights and the Borne de Cornouilles (Corned Willy Hill) at a cost of 1,052 casualties with 131 dead. They had captured more than 1,500 enemy troops. The Armistice was declared on November 11 as the 29th Division was in reserve awaiting the next offensive. Silver Spring's Company K lost 41 men during the war, nearly one-third of its strength.⁷

During World War II the 29th Division was stationed in various parts of Great Britain training for the planned invasion that would liberate Europe. The 116th and the first battalion of the 115th of the 29th Division was part of the D-Day invasion force that landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy in 1944 and experienced the heaviest casualties establishing the beachhead. The 116th were part of the first assault wave and received massive casualties. The 115th landed just before noon in the second wave and by nightfall had advanced up the beach just south of the town of St. Laurent-sur-Mer. The main objective following D-Day was the capture of the critical crossroads town of St. Lo that fell after fierce fighting to the 29th Division on July 17-18 initiating the invasion force's breakout from the beachheads.⁸

The 29th Division continued its pursuit of the German forces through the hedgerow country of Normandy until mid-August. As the Allied forces rapidly pushed eastward liberating much of France, the 29th along with two other divisions was given the mission of capturing the port of Brest in Brittany. This task was accomplished after three weeks of intense fighting on September 18. Later that month the 29th was moved by rail and truck to the Netherlands and thereafter

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.4

began a steady assault on the western front of Germany's fortifications just north of Aachen (a little further east on the Neuse River from where Maryland's World War I guardsmen had fought). After several more months of combat including a daring frontal assault across the Roer River to capture the city of Julich, the 29th division crossed the Rhine River on March 31, 1945 and on May 2 reached the Elbe where elements of the 175th Infantry met the 6th Guards Cavalry Division of the Soviet Army.⁹

Five days later Germany surrendered, but the 29th did not arrive back in the United States until January 17, 1946 after a tour of duty occupying Bremen and Bremerhaven. The entire 115th received a Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation for its actions on D-Day and the 1st Battalion received the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star for its defense outside St. Lo repulsing the German counterattack near Bois de Bretel, Normandy on July 11, 1944. Many other individual awards were also received. The 29th Infantry Division was not called up for the Korean War and was deactivated in a reorganization of the National Guard in 1968. In 1974 the National Guard vacated the downtown Silver Spring Armory and occupied the new George M. Gelston Armory on East Randolph Road at White Oak, which is now the station of the 3rd Brigade, 29th Infantry Division (Light).¹⁰

The Silver Spring Armory. E. Brooke Lee and Frank L. Hewitt and the Development of Silver Spring

E. Brooke Lee and Frank L. Hewitt were major figures in the modern development of Silver Spring. As business associates and friends interested in the growth of the community, they were instrumental to the organization or creation of the necessary administrative, financial and physical infrastructure that by 1930 provided the foundation for the modern development of Silver Spring including a federal post office, banks, road improvements, and electric, water and sewage service, and fire protection. The Silver Spring Armory is closely associated with their careers as both men greatly valued their military service and held deep pride in the establishment and growth of

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.5

Company K of the Maryland National Guard. No other structure associated with Lee or Hewitt's career, including their residences, offices, or commercial interests, during the interwar period remains extant. Moreover, the Armory, located in Silver Spring due to their influence and realized as part of their plans to develop the downtown area, became an important landmark providing the rapidly growing community a public meeting, exhibition and recreational space.

Born at the Blair-Lee House in Washington, D. C. in 1892, E. Brooke Lee, became a member of a famous Blair-Lee family dynasty that included a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Maryland and Virginia governors, diplomats, a postmaster general and members of Congress. World War I hero, real estate magnate and county political boss, E. Brooke Lee owned a great deal of land in the Silver Spring area and developed a series of family estates into new suburbs such as Northgate, Colonial Village, Sligo and Sligo Park Hills during the interwar period. The "Colonel," was a close associate of Governor Albert C. Ritchie and worked as his legislative agent during his successive terms between 1920 and 1935. Lee served as secretary of State of Maryland in 1923 and 1924 and, soon after his election to the House of Delegates in 1926, he became House Speaker for the legislative sessions of 1928, 1929, 1930, and 1931.¹¹

Lee's political influence in Annapolis made him a formidable power in county politics and land development. He was a strong advocate of planned suburban growth in the county facilitated by zoning. Lee was also instrumental to the establishment of both the Washington Sanitary Suburban Commission in 1916 and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1927. These agencies would control the development of regional water, sewer and road systems that were essential to the county's urban growth. Lee remained a force in Montgomery County civic affairs and politics for more than four decades and helped shape the development of the region before his death in 1984.¹²

A native of Montgomery County, Frank L. Hewitt was born at

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.6

Brinklow near Ashton on November 25, 1878. His parents, Richard H. Hewitt and Julia Dowling, were emigrants from England and Ireland respectively who had met and married in New York. They eventually settled in Montgomery County and Richard H. Hewitt worked as a tenant farmer in the Ashton and Norbeck areas. Frank L. Hewitt was the youngest of nine children and attended Montgomery County public schools completing the sixth grade. He worked as a farm laborer until about 1903 and saved enough money to open a grocery/general store on Georgia Avenue (then the Brookeville and Washington Turnpike) in the crossroads community that would develop into modern downtown Silver Spring.¹³

Hewitt, an industrious and gifted businessman, immediately invested profits from his store into the construction of two modern houses on Georgia Avenue just south of Bonifant Street. Soon thereafter he had three brick Neoclassical houses built on Sligo Avenue east of Fenton Street and managed to convince the Potomac Electric Power Company it would be profitable to extend its service out to Silver Spring. Hewitt became the town's postmaster in 1906 and led the Silver Spring promotion that obtained a new federal post office. A constant booster of the community and a recognized leader of the Republican party in southeastern Montgomery County, Hewitt persuaded prominent Congressman Frederick N. Zihlman, a Republican from Allegheny County, and Republican Senator Ovington E. Weller to locate residences in Silver Spring. Both men significantly influenced Silver Spring's early twentieth century development as proponents of the extension of 16th Street from Walter Reed to the District line and the conversion of Georgia Avenue to a major state highway.¹⁴

As Hewitt expanded his business interests into real estate development, he realized that the area needed capital to finance its growth and in 1910 successfully organized and became the founding partner and vice-president of the Silver Spring National Bank (Suburban Trust Company). He also founded the Citizen Savings and Loan Association (now Citizen Savings Bank FSB) in 1929. A prominent member of the Volunteer Fire Department founded in 1915, and a char-

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.7

ter member of the Silver Spring Businessman's Association (antecedent of the Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce), Hewitt, according to E. Brooke Lee, was the "town's principal organizer of activities of every kind."¹⁵

Hewitt was extremely nearsighted and had no military experience when he joined Company K in 1914. However, Lee highly respected Hewitt's business and managerial abilities and set him to work organizing and operating the company canteen during its summer encampments. During the summer of 1916, the 1st Maryland canteen at Eagle Pass, Texas was considered outstanding in both quality and efficiency. With the outbreak of World War I, Major General Milton A. Reckford promoted Hewitt to captain and assigned him as commanding officer of the Canteen of the 115th Infantry training at Anniston, Alabama. Hewitt's canteen not only provided outstanding food service and sold goods at reasonable prices, but it also provided regular entertainment programs considered the best in the 29th Infantry.¹⁶

During the World War I, Hewitt became the Captain of the Supply Company of the 115th Infantry administering fifteen company kitchens as well as exchanges at positions far closer to the front than was usual. His work as the Regiment's Exchange Officer became legend to the men on the front who could purchase "anything from a vanity box and a lipstick to a postage stamp and a book on etiquette."¹⁷ Lee later recalled, "Captain Hewitt not only was respected by his fellow and superior officers, he was adored by the men of the 115th Infantry." Hewitt continued his service in the National Guard until 1927 when the new building opened and Company K's successor known as "Service Company" was well established. Hewitt died in 1944 and when the Armory building was renovated and reopened in 1980, a plaque was installed there in his honor.¹⁸

The dedication of the Silver Spring Armory in 1927 was a key event in the town's development. Designed by state architect Robert L. Harris, the high style masonry building was an imposing new landmark in a burgeoning townscape dominated by residential and low-rise

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.8

commercial buildings. After World War I Silver Spring began its boom. In 1916 Silver Spring was a typical country town built around a train station just eight miles from downtown Washington. It comprised a residential and commercial area of twenty seven houses on Sligo, Silver Spring, Thayer, Georgia and Colesville streets including a bakery, hardware and farm implement store, a garage, a flour, feed and grain store, a post office, bank, and the first armory clustered along its Georgia Avenue Main Street.¹⁹

By 1927 the town was poised for exponential commercial growth as the population of Silver Spring boomed from 4,500 in 1910 to 29,000 by 1930. New automobile suburbs, primarily built for commuters employed by the federal government, like the Blair Development Company's Woodside Park and E. Brooke Lee's North Washington Real Estate Company's developments such as South Woodside Park, Sligo Park Hills, Highland View and North Hills all initiated between 1921 and 1927 began to engulf what had been a country crossroads. The Silver Spring Armory opened during the height of this rapid suburban development and was considered a pivotal building in the town's planned commercial development. Hewitt, who negotiated the sale of the land on which the Armory was built, was a board member of the Investor's Securities Corporation of Washington, D.C. which had interests in "about eight million feet of land just north of the District line in Silver Spring, Maryland, which is being rapidly developed into business and residence lots. . . ." ²⁰

It was noted in the introduction to the corporation's portfolio produced for potential investors that the state had paid "20 cents per foot" for the lot (30,000 square feet at \$6,000) and it was estimated that the corporation's property when sold would net, after development deductions, more than a million dollars.²¹ The construction of the Armory represented a significant benchmark for downtown development and an inducement to potential investors. Both Hewitt and Lee, major players in the Silver Spring real estate market, promoted the importance of the new building as a symbol of economic progress and a major community asset.

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.9

The dedication of the new Silver Spring Armory building in August 1927 was a gala social event in the community. Festivities began at noon on August 20 with a march along Georgia Avenue to the Armory led by volunteer fire-fighting outfits from Montgomery, Prince George's and Frederick counties. The firemen were followed by a parade of 75 floats entered by civic, patriotic, fraternal and business organizations. At the Armory there were carnival events including "sheik contests" judged by Silver Spring women to select the man most resembling movie idol Rudolph Valentino. That evening beginning at 7 o'clock Governor Albert C. Ritchie, Representative Frederick N. Zihlman and E. Brooke Lee delivered addresses dedicating the building that were broadcast on WRC radio. Lee boosted the development of Silver Spring and spoke about the bright future of what he called "Maryland North of Washington." All of the festivities that day were capped by a military ball, the first of many formal dances to be held at the Armory.²²

The Armory became a significant social and recreational center for Silver Spring in the 1930s and 1940s. Formal dinners and political fundraisers were held there. Churches and women's groups sponsored plays and meetings. Exhibitions and shows were held and the National Guard opened the large drill hall for roller skating on weekend evenings, which became a popular entertainment for the town's youth in the 1930s.²³ As downtown Silver Spring developed into a more urbanized regional retail and business center in the 1950s and 1960s, the Armory's once pivotal role in the town's development and community life was diminished. With the closing of the structure in the early 1970s, the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission acquired the property and in July 1977 commissioned architect Benjamin P. Elliott to renovate the building for public activities. The building, reopened in 1980 as Armory Place, remains an integral part of Silver Spring and a poignant reminder of the contributions of local National Guardsmen to the nation's military history, the optimism and drive of community leaders E. Brooke Lee and Frank L. Hewitt, and the nature of local urban development during the interwar period.

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Endnotes
Page 1

Endnotes

- 1 Joseph M. Balkoski, **The Maryland National Guard: A History of Maryland's Military Forces, 1634-1991**. (Baltimore, MD: Maryland National Guard, 1991), 40.
- 2 Russell F. Weigley, **History of the United States Army** (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1984), 320-22 and 348-50; and also Richard E. Dupuy, **The National Guard: A Compact History**. (New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1982), 91-99.
- 3 Balkoski, **The Maryland National Guard: A History of Maryland's Military Forces, 1634-1991**, 1-2; and Susanne Moore, "Maryland National Guard Armories." National Register of Historic Places Form, 1985 (MHT).
- 4 E. Brooke Lee." Biographical Vertical File, Montgomery County Public Library, Rockville, MD.
- 5 "Captain Frank Lee Hewitt, Sr.," Unpublished Biographical Sketch, John P. (Jack) Hewitt Files, Located at the Hewitt Real Estate Office, Silver Spring, Maryland.
- 6 Company K Papers, World War I, Donated by E. Brooke Lee, Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Maryland. See also Jane Sween, **Montgomery County: Two Centuries of Change**. (Woodland Hills, Cal: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1984), 119-120.
- 7 For information on the World War I service of the 29th Division, see Balkoski, **The Maryland National Guard**, 49-51; Susanne Moore, "Maryland National Guard Armories." National Register of Historic Places Form, 1985. (MHT); and Sween, **Montgomery County: Two Centuries of Change**, 119-120.
- 8 For information on the World War II service of the 29th Division, see Balkoski, **The Maryland National Guard**, 65-70; Moore,

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Endnotes
Page 2

"Maryland National Guard Armories"; and **Maryland in World War II**. Volume I. Military Participation. (Baltimore, MD: War Records Division, Maryland Historical Society, 1950).

9 Balkoski, **The Maryland National Guard**, 65-70; Moore, "Maryland National Guard Armories."; and **Maryland in World War II**. Volume I.

10 Balkoski, **The Maryland National Guard**, 65-70; Moore, "Maryland National Guard Armories."; and **Maryland in World War II**. Volume I.

11 Captain E. Brooke Lee, promoted during his border service in Texas, would command Company K of the 29th Division which served with distinction throughout the war. Lee's conspicuous valor in leading raiding parties into the enemy's trenches during combat at Belfort Gap north of Verdun and east of the Argonne and his heroism in returning wounded men to safety caught in no man's land between the trenches led to the award of the American Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star Citations, the French Croix De Guerre and the Belgian Order of Leopold. On November 2, 1918 Lee was promoted to the rank of Major and assigned command of the 2nd Battalion of the 29th Infantry. He was mustered out of the Army in June, 1919 as a lieutenant colonel and became the Chief of Staff for the 29th Infantry Division of the Maryland National Guard. Lee later was promoted to Colonel in the Maryland Home Guard during World War II. For Lee's influential career in Montgomery County's politics and land development, see Ray Eldon Hiebert and Richard K. MacMaster. **A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland**. (Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), 262-265; and George H. Calcott, **Maryland and America, 1940 to 1980**. (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1985), 22-24. For Lee's war record see, E. Brooke Lee, Biographical Vertical File, Montgomery County Public Library, Rockville, Maryland.

12 Hiebert and MacMaster. **A Grateful Remembrance**, 262-265.

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Endnotes
Page 3

- 13 Interview with Nellie Hewitt Stinchcomb, August 16, 1994.
- 14 E. Brooke Lee, "Frank L. Hewitt and Silver Spring." Typescript Memoir, In the Possession of John P. (Jack) Hewitt, Hewitt Real Estate Offices, Silver Spring, MD.
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 E. Brooke Lee, "Captain Frank L. Hewitt." Typescript Memoir, In the Possession of John P. (Jack) Hewitt, Hewitt Real Estate Offices, Silver Spring, MD.
- 17 John A. Cutchins, **History of the Twenty-Ninth Division, Blue and Gray, 1917-1919.** (Philadelphia, PA: MacCalla & Co., Inc., 1921), 27.
- 18 E. Brooke Lee, "Captain Frank L. Hewitt" Typescript memoir, John P. (Jack) Hewitt Files. Jack Hewitt obtained biographical information about his father from E. Brooke Lee in 1980. Lee dictated his remarks and they were recorded and typed by his secretary.
- 19 Steven Lubar, "Trolley Lines, Land Speculation and Community Building: The Early History of Woodside Park, Silver Spring, Maryland." **Maryland Historical Magazine.** 81 (Winter 1986), 321.
- 20 Investor's Securities Corporation of Washington, D. C. Portfolio, In the Possession of John P. (Jack) Hewitt, Hewitt Real Estate Offices, Silver Spring, Maryland.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 **Evening Star** (Washington), August 20, 1927.
- 23 Interview with Nellie Hewitt Stinchcomb, August 16, 1994.

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place

Preservation Planning Data:

- a) Geographic Organization: Piedmont
- b) Chronological/Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance - A.D. 1870-1930.
- c) Historic Period Themes: Military, Community Development, Social
- d) Resource Type: Armory

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Page 9.1

Unpublished Sources

Alexis, Karin M. E. "Government Architecture in Montgomery County, Maryland: First Half of the Twentieth Century." Unpublished survey report. Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historical Trust, 1988.

Moore, Susanne. "Maryland National Guard Armories." National Register of Historic Places Form, 1985. (MHT)

Montgomery County Historical Society, Vertical Files and Photographs.

_____. Company K Papers, World War I,
Donated by E. Brooke Lee.

Rebeck, Andrea. "Montgomery County in the Early Twentieth Century: A Study of Historical and Architectural Themes." Unpublished report. Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historical Trust, 1987.

Published Sources

State and Local Histories

Callcott, George H. **Maryland and America, 1940-1980.** Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1985.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall and Anne Dennis Lewis. **Montgomery County: A Pictorial History.** Norfolk/Virginia Beach: Donning Co., 1984.

Evening Star (Washington), August 21, 1927.

Getty, Mildred. "The Silver Spring Area." Part II. **The Montgomery County Story.** 12 (February 1969): 1-9.

Lubar, Steven. "Trolley Lines, Land Speculation and Community-Building: The Early History of Woodside Park, Silver

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 36-14 - Armory Place
Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Page 9.2

Spring, Maryland." **Maryland Historical Magazine**. 81 (Winter 1986):316-329.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon and Richard K. MacMaster. **A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland**. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Sween, Jane. **Montgomery County: Two Centuries of Change**. Woodland Hills, Cal: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1984.

Walsh, Richard and Fox, William Lloyd, eds. **Maryland: A History, 1632-1974**. Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1977.

Military History and Armory Architecture

Balkoski, **The Maryland National Guard: A History of Maryland's Military Forces, 1634-1991**. Baltimore, MD: Maryland National Guard, 1991.

Cutchins, John A. **History of the Twenty-Ninth Division**. Philadelphia, PA: MacCalla and Co., Inc., 1921.

Dupuy, Richard E. **The National Guard: A Compact History**. New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1982.

Fogelson, Robert M. **America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order**. Cambridge, Mass., and London: Harvard University Press, 1989.

Maryland in World War II. Volume I. Military Participation. Baltimore, MD: War Records Division, Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

Weigley, Russell F. **History of the United States Army**. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1984.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The New Armory

AND/OR COMMON

Armory Place

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

925 Wayne Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

MD 20910

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

MNCPPC

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 20910

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Court House

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:36-14

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1927

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The armory was built in 1927, replacing the old armory which now houses the Silver Spring Fire Company. The older armory, constructed in 1915, was severely altered to accommodate its new use as a fire house; the entire original castellated front -- earmark of early 20th century armory architecture -- was torn off and replaced by the present gable-forward facade. The new armory continued the medieval architectural affinities but on a grander scale. The National Guard Armory's association with Captain Frank Hewitt, Sr., and Colonel E. Brooke Lee, two of the founding fathers of modern Silver Spring, gives the building an added historical dimension. The building has been recently renovated by the M-NCPPC, under the supervision of architect Benjamin Elliott, and sympathetically adapted to use as a community center.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:36-14

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mark Walston

8/84

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Park Historian, MNCPPC

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

6700 Needwood Road

948-1769

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Rockville, MD 20855

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



M:36-14

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated July 5, 1985

ACTION TAKEN

Final Draft Amendment...to designate the following sites on the Master Plan thereby extending to them the protection of the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

M: 36/5.....Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway
M: 36/6.....Jesup Blair House/Local Park
M: 36/11.....Old Silver Spring Post Office
M: 36/14.....Armory Place

APPENDIX

SITES NOT RECOMMENDED FOR REGULATION UNDER THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 24A OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on The Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition, Section 24A-10 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Although removed from the Locational Atlas, these sites will remain on the Maryland Historical Trust's State Inventory.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
36/16	Little Tavern	8230 Georgia Avenue
36/17	Old Masonic Temple	8435-39 Georgia Avenue

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION
OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT
WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

M:36-14

By: District Council

Subject: Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland re: Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

Background

1. On July 12, 1985, the Montgomery County Planning Board transmitted to the Montgomery County Council a Final Draft Amendment to the Historic Preservation Master Plan to designate the following as individual historic sites in the Silver Spring CBD:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
#36/5	The Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway	Blair Mill Road	0.1 acre
#36/6	Jesup Blair House/Local Park	900 Jesup Blair Drive	14.46 acres
#36/11	Old Silver Spring Post Office	8412 Georgia Avenue	16,714 sq. ft.
#36/14	Armory Place	925 Wayne Avenue	1.6 acres

2. The Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation concerning Silver Spring CBD individual historic sites also recommends the following sites as not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance and to be removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland:

with cupola, wooden quoin blocks, a molded architrave and pilasters framing the front entrance.

- Originally known as "The Moorings," the house was constructed as a summer residence for the prestigious Blair family, influential settlers and developers of the Silver Spring area.

#36/11 Old Silver Spring 8412 Georgia Ave. 16,714 sq.ft.
Post Office

- Constructed in 1936-37 this building is one of three distinctive federal post offices built in the County during the Depression under the aegis of the Work Progress Administration (WPA).
- This amendment recognizes that the zoning on the property permits an intensification of development for the site. If redeveloped, the intention of designation is to seek the preservation and integration of the labor intensive architectural features incorporated in the Georgia Avenue facade which are reflective of the role of the WPA in stimulating employment in the construction trades.

#36/14 Armory Place 925 Wayne Avenue 1.6 acres

- Representative example of early 20th century Armory architecture featuring distinctive medieval architectural affinities.
- Associated with Captain Frank Hewitt, Sr. and Colonel E. Brooke Lee, two of the founding fathers of modern Silver Spring.

map from Bobbi Hahn
15 May 87

Atlas boundaries —

M: 36-14
Armory Place
925 Wayne Avenue

M: 36-7

Montgomery Arms
8700-8722 Colesville

Fentra Building
8701-8719 Colesville

36-7-2

J.C. Penney, 1950

Hahn Shoes, 1949

Ver #36/7
Spring
Historic
District

Bus Station
817 Ellsworth

Hecht Co. 1947
Citizens Savings
Bank & Will Paper Store
8584-89 Fenton
Silver Theater, 1938

36-7-1
Silver Spring Shopping
Center, 1938

#36/14 New Armory, 1927
925 Wayne Ave.

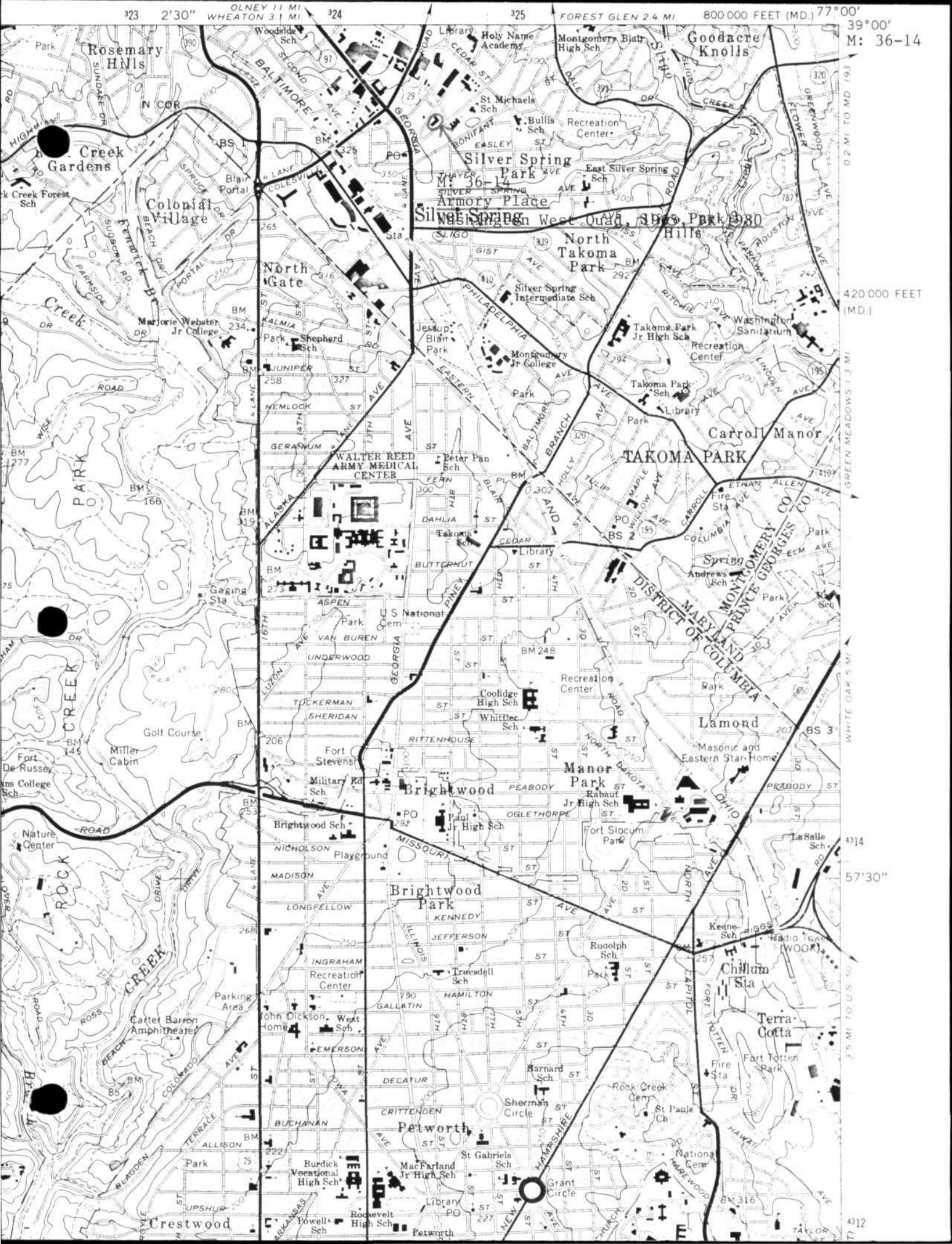
#36/13 Tastee Diner, 1946
8516 Georgia Ave.

#36/17 Masonic Temple, 1927
8435-39 Georgia Ave.

#36/11 Silver Spring Post Office, 1936
8412 Georgia Ave.

#36/16 Little Tavern, c.1940
8230 Georgia Ave.





323 2'30" WHEATON 3.1 MI

324

FOREST GLEN 2.4 MI

800 000 FEET (MD.) 77°00'

39°00'

M: 36-14

420 000 FEET (MD.)

0.2 MI TO MD 193
GREEN MEADOWS 1.3 MI
WHITE OAK 5 MI

4314

57'30"

3.5 MI TO U.S. 50

4312